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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

God of our fathers and mothers, who surrounds us with shields of grace, mercy, and peace, thank You for our national and world leaders. Shower them with wisdom. Give them faith to exercise responsible stewardship of Your many blessings and an abiding awareness of their accountability to You. Remind them that abundance must be used unselfishly and that we enter the grave with empty hands.

Inspire our lawmakers today with a love that comes from a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith. Strengthen them in their work to wage the good fight against freedom's enemies. Bless all who labor with them. May the harvest of our work enable the people of our global village to lead peaceful and quiet lives that are pleasing to You. Give us Your peace at all times in every way.

Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the acting majority leader.

SCHEDULE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today following the 90-minute period for morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the Morocco free-trade agreement. The agreement reached last night provides for a vote on final passage to occur at 11:30 this morning.

As a reminder, last night the majority leader filed a cloture motion on the nomination of Henry Saad to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit. That vote will occur tomorrow. We expect debate today on the Saad nomination, as well as other pending judicial nominations.

RECOGNITION OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

DOING RIGHT BY AMERICA

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, in just over 100 days, the American people will make an historic and fateful decision. They will decide whether we stay the course we are on or move our country in a new and better direction.

As I have traveled around South Dakota and the Nation, I have heard a lot about the hopes and dreams Americans have for their families. I have listened to ranchers and farmers, teachers and mothers, police officers and firefighters. I am always humbled by the honesty of their message.

Families in South Dakota and across our Nation aren't asking for special deals or special advantage. All they want is a fair opportunity on a level playing field. They want to know that there is only one set of rules, and that the game isn't rigged against them. Most of all, they want to know that as we make decisions affecting the future of our country, our first priority is doing right by America.

If a policy isn't going to make us stronger and safer, if it is not going to

expand opportunity and put common sense ahead of ideology, then it is not doing right by America.

Doing right by America rejects the defeatist view that we have enough money to rebuild Iraq, but not enough resources to take care of America.

At its heart, doing right by America means fulfilling our moral responsibility—together—to create a better future for our children and grandchildren. It is a simple value that Americans have always lived by, but it has been pushed aside these last 4 years. Boardroom priorities have crowded out kitchen-table needs, and special interests—like Enron, Halliburton, and the giant oil companies—have undermined our common purpose. Years of progress in spreading opportunity for regular Americans has been turned on its head.

We are all proud that America is a place of great wealth and success. But the genius of America has never been just the ability of the rich to get richer. The true genius of America has always been the promise that all Americans who work hard and play by the rules will have the opportunity to succeed.

The promise of opportunity is what inspired my grandparents, and tens of millions of other immigrants, to start a new life here. And nearly every day, I hear a new story that reminds me that my most important responsibility is defending the opportunity of regular Americans to build a better life for themselves and their children.

Middle-class families deserve an opportunity to compete for good jobs that reward work. They deserve an opportunity to send their children to good schools, and then on to good colleges and universities, without busting the family budget. They deserve an opportunity to purchase health insurance at a reasonable price so they can see a doctor—one they choose—when they are sick or injured, and so they can fill a prescription if their doctor writes

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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